BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC STATS

Ministry of Management Services

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gems6.gov.bc.ca Issue: 04-36 September 10, 2004

- **Jobless rate rises to 7.7%, up 0.4 percentage points in August**
- **July exports up 0.4% despite weaker forest products shipments to the US**
- **Housing starts jump 32.1% in August**

Labour Force

- **British Columbia's unemployment rate increased 0.4 percentage points to 7.7% *(seasonally adjusted)* in August as employment in the province fell 0.7%.** At the same time, the labour force contracted (-0.3%), which helped ease the upward pressure on the jobless rate, but suggests that some people either left the province or gave up looking for work. Despite the recent increase, BC's unemployment rate remains significantly lower than it was in 2002 and 2003.

  Canada's unemployment rate was unchanged at 7.2% in August, as both the labour force and the number of people with jobs remained at the same level. Ontario (6.8%) and Alberta (4.7%) posted the same unemployment rate as in July, while Quebec's jobless rate fell 0.2 percentage points to 8.0%. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Both the goods (-0.6%) and service (-0.7%) sectors cut back on the size of their workforce in August.** The number of manufacturing jobs slipped 1.7%, and there were fewer people working in forestry, fishing & mining (-4.6%) and agriculture (-8.9%). The construction industry bounced back (+3.2%) and utilities (+11.7%) also regained most of the ground lost in July.

  In the service sector, the job losses were widespread, with employment falling in six of 11 industries. The biggest declines were in transportation (-5.3%), professional, scientific & technical services (-4.7%) and retail & wholesale trade (-3.5%). This was partly offset by strong growth in finance, insurance & real estate (+9.7%) and information, culture & recreation (+3.5%) services. Employment in accommodation & food services inched up 0.3%.

  Public (-0.5%) and private (-0.6%) sector employment declined in August, and the number of self-employed British Columbians slipped 1.2%. Full-time (-0.8%) employment shrank significantly, with a smaller decrease in the number of people with part-time work (-0.2%).
  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **For the second month in a row, North Coast/Nechako (12.1%, 3-month moving average) was the only region with a double-digit unemployment rate in August.** Jobless rates in the rest of the province ranged from 7.1% in Mainland/Southwest to 8.7% in Cariboo. Residents of Thompson/Okanagan (7.3%) continued to experience relatively low unemployment rates. Vancouver Island/Coast had a jobless rate of 8.1%, largely due to high unemployment outside the capital region. Victoria's unemployment rate (6.1%) remained well below the provincial average. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

The Economy

- **Exports of BC products edged up 0.4% *(seasonally adjusted)* in July.** Shipments to overseas destinations rose 1.3%, but the value of US-bound exports was unchanged from June. The forest sector saw exports drop 5.4% in July largely due to sagging shipments to the US (-6.8%). However, exporters of other products fared better. Energy exports advanced 10.0%, while shipments of industrial products and consumer goods bounced back (+7.0%) from a poor showing in June.
  Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

- **Exports from BC were 17.9% higher *(unadjusted)* this July than in the same month of 2003.** The strong growth in BC reflects a big year-over-year increase in the value of forest and industrial product exports. Among the provinces, Alberta (+27.7%) and Saskatchewan (+25.8%) posted the strongest export growth. Canadian exports were 13.0% higher than in

Report Business Immigrants to British Columbia

Did you know...
Nearly 56% of current tobacco users in British Columbia made one or more attempts to quit in the past year

July 2003, with double-digit gains in six provinces. Newfoundland (-2.8%) was the only region to see a decline. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Housing starts in the province jumped in August, increasing 32.1% (*seasonally adjusted*) after three months of decline.** Starts were up 10.5% nationally, with solid gains seen in most parts of the country. Among the larger provinces, BC and Ontario (+13.9%) posted the strongest growth. *Data Source: CMHC*

- **The value of building permits issued in British Columbia fell 40.3% to $639 million (*seasonally adjusted*) in July after soaring to a record high of $1.1 billion in the previous month.** Both the residential (-41.5%) and non-residential (-36.3%) sectors slid back to more normal levels. Canadian permits were down 11.4%, partly due to declines in three of the four largest provinces.

  Regionally, the census metropolitan area of Vancouver (-50.6%) saw a sharp drop in the value of building permits. Permits were also down in Victoria (-23.6%) and Abbotsford (-69.7%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The cost of new housing in Vancouver continued to climb in July, rising to 4.6%over the July 2003 level.** Victoria, prices were up 9.3% as the city once again posted the largest 12-month increase in the country. Residents of Winnipeg (+8.5%) and Ottawa-Gatineau (+7.8%) also paid substantially more for new housing. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Education

- **In the 2002/03 school year, enrolment in British Columbia public elementary and secondary schools was 599,514, down 1.3% from 1996/97 (based on headcount enrolments).** Over the same period, BC's population has grown 5.4% to 4.1 million.

  Public school enrolment in the province has declined in every year since 1997/98. Nationally, the number of students enrolled at public schools has increased over the longer run, and stood at 5,321,343 in the 2002/03 school year.

  Total expenditures per student in BC public elementary and secondary schools amounted to $7,023 (in 1992 constant dollars) in 2002/03, showing a 0.4% increase from 2001/02. Expenditures per student have been rising steadily since 1998/99. *Data Source: SC, Catalogue 81-595-MIE2004022*

Prices

- **Prices received by British Columbia farmers for their agricultural commodities slumped 5.1% in June compared with the same period a year earlier, according to data from the Farm Product Price Index (FPPI).** The crop index showed a 6.3% decline. Crop prices have been falling since March. The livestock and animal products index was 4.3% lower than in the same month last year due, in part, to the effects of the avian flu and mad cow situations. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

The Nation

- **Canadian industries operated at 84.6% of full capacity in the second quarter of 2004, up from 83.4% at the beginning of the year.** Exports gave a boost to the manufacturing sector, where capacity utilization reached its highest level (86.6%) in more than four years. Producers of wood (99.9%) products were pushing the limits of their capacity in the second quarter. The paper industry (90.6%) operated at near-full capacity, and the forestry & logging sector (90.2%) was kept busy providing raw materials. Capacity utilization rose to 90.1% in the mining industry, largely due to an increase in diamond production. The oil & gas extraction industry was operating at just 65.2% of full capacity. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Canada's trade deficit in culture services stood at $919 million in 2002, a 13% drop from the record level of $1.1 billion set in 2001.** Culture service exports reached a new high of $2.6 billion in 2002, about half (51%) of which was film production and distribution services. The previous record was set in 2000. Imports totalled $3.6 billion. Film services accounted for 33% of imports, followed by trademarks at 19%, copyrights at 17% and broadcasting services at 14%. *Data Source: SC, The Daily*

Infoline *Issue: 04-36*
September 10, 2004

For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

Infoline Report

Issue: 04-36
September 10, 2004

Contact: Frank Ip (250) 387-0336
Originally published in *Immigration Highlights*, Issue 04-1. Annual Subscription $30 +GST

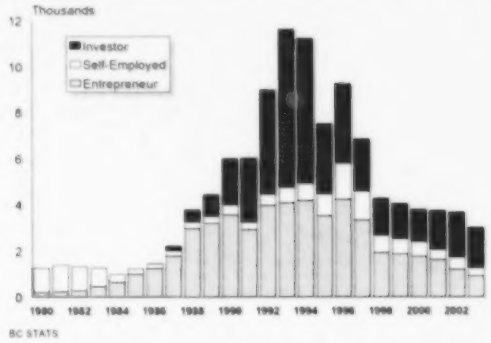
Business Immigrants to British Columbia

One of the major objectives of the business immigration program is to stimulate economic growth in Canada by attracting experienced business people and investment capital. Business immigrants can be divided into three main classes, namely, the Entrepreneur Class, the Investor Class and the Self-employed Class. Entrepreneur immigrants are admitted under the condition that they will establish or purchase a substantial business in Canada and thereby create or maintain jobs for Canadian citizens. Investor immigrants, on the other hand, commit a fixed sum of money to invest in some economic activities in Canada that are recognized by the government authorities. Self-employed immigrants are those who must have experience in cultural activities, athletics or farm management with the intention and ability to work for themselves in Canada in their relevant field.

B.C. has always been one of the most favoured province for business immigrants, especially those in the Investor Class. The province has been able to attract a much higher proportion of immigrants in the business classes compared to all other classes of immigrants coming to Canada. Since the inception of the Investor Immigration Program in 1986, approximately 91,000 investor immigrants (and their dependents) arrived in Canada by the end of 2003. Of those, nearly half (47%) reported B.C. as their intended province of destination. Also, over the same period, there were about 174,000 entrepreneur immigrants and 46,000 self-employed immigrants who arrived in Canada, and B.C.'s share was 28 and 23 per cent, respectively.

The number of business immigrants coming to Canada and B.C. has shown a declining trend in recent years. The highest influx of business immigrants was seen around the early and mid ninety's and started to taper off after 1997. At the same time, the overall immigrant landings in B.C. have also been showing a declining trend in recent years. Also, the share of business immigrants in the total B.C. landings had dropped sharply during the mid ninety's. This was largely a result of the reduction in business and other immigrants coming from Hong Kong after its political transition in 1997.

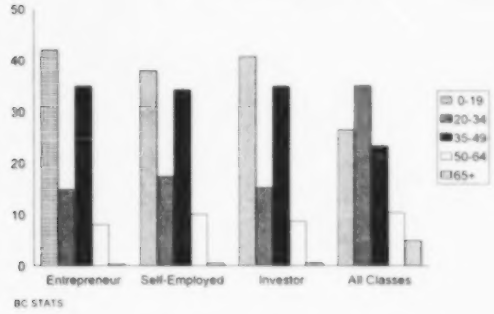
B.C. Business Immigrants



Most business immigrants arrived from Asia. During the 1980-2003 period, the proportion of B.C. business immigrants who came from Asia was 85 per cent in the entrepreneur program, 97 in the investor program and 50 per cent in the self-employed program. Until recent years, Hong Kong had been the top source of the overall business immigrants coming to the province. During this 24 year study period, Hong Kong accounted for 37 per cent of all the entrepreneur immigrants, 34 per cent of all investor immigrants, and 15 per cent of all self-employed immigrants to B.C. Since the mid-1990s, Taiwan was the leading source of business immigrants in the Investor Class but lost it leading position to Mainland China starting in year 2000. However, Taiwan has been the top source country of self-employed immigrants to B.C. over the last decade. South Korea has become the top source country of entrepreneur immigrants over the last five years.

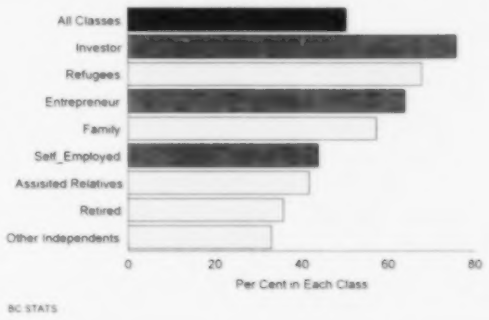
A relatively higher proportion of the principal applicants and their spouses who arrived under the business immigration program were middle aged (aged 35–49). This is due to the fact that they were selected primarily on the basis of business skills and experience as well as net worth. Most of them were also expected to develop some business activities in Canada. Hence, it is less likely that they were in either very young or old age groups. For the same reasons, business immigrants were more likely to come as family units with teenaged children. Compared to the overall immigrant landings to B.C., business immigrants were more likely to have dependent children in the 10–19 age group.

B.C. Immigrants by Class by Age Group
landed 1980-2003



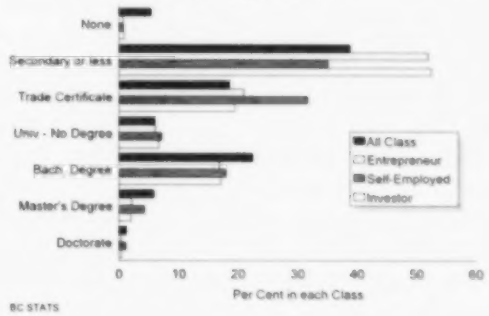
As a result of the high proportion of business immigrants who came from non-English speaking countries, many of the business immigrants were not able to communicate in English at the time of their landing. While the principle applicants of business immigrants tended to be more capable in the English language due to the selection criteria as discussed above, their spouses and accompanying children were less likely to possess sufficient English language ability. Over the period from 1980 to 2003, the proportion of immigrants who possessed no English language ability was 64 per cent for the entrepreneur immigrants, 76 per cent for the investor immigrants, 44 per cent for the self-employed immigrants and 50 per cent for the overall immigrants.

B.C. Immigrants without English Language Ability by Class
Landed 1980-2003



Unlike skilled worker classes of immigrants who were admitted based heavily on their education level, business immigrants were chosen based on business experiences and the amount of capital they possessed. Hence, the overall education qualification of business immigrants tended to be lower than that of the overall landings which have been dominated by the skilled worker classes. Among the three business classes, self-employed immigrants tended to possess a relatively higher education qualification than those in the investor or entrepreneur classes. Over the study period (1980–2003), a relatively higher proportion of the self-employed immigrants possessed a post graduate degree and a lower proportion possessed only secondary or less education at arrival to B.C.

B.C. Immigrants by Class by Education Level
Landed 1980-2003



Demographic Trends in Canada

Statistics Canada

1 Day Conference
Vancouver, BC

Tuesday, October 26, 2004 - Four Seasons Hotel, 791 West Georgia St. Vancouver BC V6C 2T4
Ideal for Managers, Business Owners, Planners and Policy Developers in the fields of market research, human resources, financial planning, healthcare, education, academic research, strategic planning.

Agenda

7:30 - 9:00	Registration & Continental Breakfast
9:00 - 9:15	Welcome
9:15 - 10:15	Dr. Doug Norris
10:15 - 10:45	Break
10:45 - 11:40	David Baxter
11:40 - 12:00	Question and Answer
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch (provided)
1:00 - 2:30	Social Panel / Question & Answer
2:30 - 3:00	Break
3:00 - 4:30	Economic Panel / Question & Answer
4:30	Wrap Up / Adjourn

www.demographictrends.ca
for more details

Guest Speakers

- Dr. Doug Norris - Director General, Census and Demographic Statistics Branch, Statistics Canada
- David Baxter - Executive Director, Urban Futures Institute

Panel Members

- Social Panel - Dr. Gloria Gutman, Doug Sabourin, Dr. Charles Ungerleider
- Economic Panel - Kevin Evans, John Winter, Dr. Donna Palmer

SPACE IS LIMITED!
Early Bird Rate: $225 + GST (before Sept. 28) - $240.75
Regular Fee: $275 + GST (after Sept. 28) - $294.25

REGISTRATION

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Organization: _____

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Registrations are guaranteed once payment is received. Fees will be refunded, less a $100 administrative charge, if written notice is received by September 28, 2004. No refund will be given for cancellations after that date. Substitutions are permitted.

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Vancouver, BC V6B 6C7
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REGISTRATION FORM

Demographic Trends in Canada – October 26, 2004

Please print clearly. This information, as printed, will appear on your ID badge for the conference. To register, fill out the registration form and send by fax or email to the contact information indicated. Please do not send a duplicate copy by mail.

Salutation: Ms. ☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Dr. ☐

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Organization: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____

Postal Code: _____ Email Address: _____

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Any special dietary requirements? Yes ☐ No ☐

Please explain: _____

RATES

Early Bird registration: (prior to Sept 28, 2004) $225 (plus GST)
Regular registration: $275 (plus GST)

Please send your completed registration form to:
Debbie Flanders
Phone (604) 666-2574 Fax (604) 666-6680
600-300 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, BC, V6B 6C7
www.demographictrends.ca demographictrends@vancouver.ca

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Cheque or money order enclosed. Payable to the "Receiver General for Canada"

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A $25 charge will be applied for NSF cheques

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Credit Card number: _____ Expiry date: _____

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CANCELLATIONS, REFUNDS AND PRIVACY

Cancellations received in writing by September 28, 2004 are subject to a $100 cancellation penalty. No refunds will be made for cancellations after that date. Substitutions are permitted.

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CANADA'S POPULATION IS ALWAYS CHANGING.

How are the dynamics of the population impacting you today and into the future? This conference explores important demographic trends as identified through key Statistics Canada research such as the Census and the Labour Force Survey. Participants will learn what these trends tell us about our future. These trends will be explored in terms of their implications on a broad array of social and economic subject areas including healthcare, education, family, and urban planning.
This information is ideal for decision makers and advisors in both the public and private sectors.

AGENDA

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CONFERENCE

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October 26, 2004
Four Seasons Hotel
791 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, BC, V6C 2T4
(604) 689-9333

Ideal for Managers, Business Owners, Planners and Policy Developers within the fields of:

- Market Research
- Human Resources
- Financial Planning
- Healthcare
- Education
- Academic Research
- Property and Urban Development
- Strategic Planning
- Policy Planning

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GUEST SPEAKERS

<< Dr. Doug Norris
Director General, Census and Demographic Statistics Branch, Statistics Canada

Dr. Doug Norris will present on Canadian social demographic trends as derived from Census information and other Statistics Canada surveys and how they are driving Canadian society and Canada's economy. He will use these trends to project Canada's future demographic composition and suggest potential social and economic implications for Canada.

Dr. Norris has held a variety of positions at Statistics Canada during the past 25 years. He is currently an adjunct professor at Carleton University and the University of Alberta, and a fellow of the Institute of Social Research at York University. He obtained his BSc and MSc degrees from McGill University and his doctorate from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

David Baxter >>
Executive Director, Urban Futures Institute

David Baxter is a recognized authority on the impact of demographics on the North American and international landscapes. As the Executive Director of the Urban Futures Institute, David focuses on population, economic and behavioural changes and how they affect business and society. Each year he develops numerous projections on factors influencing change in communities, economies and industries, several of which he will share with the conference audience. In his address, he will focus on the changing nature of the province's population and its implications for a number of dimensions of our communities, including changing household characteristics, changing consumer markets (including consideration of values based consumption), the shifting nature of work and labour markets, and the changing state and utilization of healthcare. Mr. Baxter is the author of many reports, articles and books addressing regional economics, population change, labour supply, consumer behaviour and market trends. He is a graduate of the Universities of Alberta and British Columbia and has held academic appointments at the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand and at the University of British Columbia in both the School of Community and Regional Planning and the Urban Land Economics Division of the Faculty of Commerce and Business. He was recently named the Worldwide ERC® Workforce Mobility Expert.

MEMBERS OF THE SOCIAL PANEL

Dr. Gloria Gutman
Professor of the Department of Gerontology, Simon Fraser University

Gloria Gutman developed and directs the Gerontology Research Centre at Simon Fraser University. She also developed and is a full professor in the Department of Gerontology at SFU. From 2001 to 2005 she is President of the International Association of Gerontology, members of which are 66 national organizations from 63 countries with a combined membership of over 40,000.

Doug Sabourin
Executive Director, Family Services of the North Shore

Doug Sabourin, currently Executive Director of Family Services of the North Shore, a multi service non-profit agency, has had 20 years experience as an Executive Director of non-profit organizations with local, provincial and national perspectives. Doug has also taught at universities across Canada in the areas of non-profit sector management and social policy. He brings an activist and strategic social policy approach to his work in collaboratively developing community based social services.

Dr. Charles Ungerleider
Professor of the Sociology of Education,
University of British Columbia

Charles Ungerleider is Professor of the Sociology of Education at the University of British Columbia and a former Deputy Minister of Education for BC. His recent book *Failing Our Kids: How we are ruining our public schools*, takes a critical look at how public schools are treated by Canadians.

MEMBERS OF THE ECONOMIC PANEL

Kevin Evans
Vice President, Western Canada, Retail Council of Canada

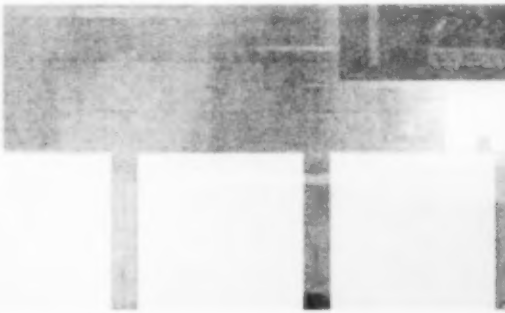
Kevin Evans is Vice President, Western Canada for Retail Council of Canada – a not-for-profit industry association representing more than 9,000 retailers of all sizes and formats. Kevin joined RCC in 1998 following a 24 year career in broadcast journalism.

Dr. Donna Palmer
The Essential Skills Group Inc.

Dr. Donna Palmer is one of Canada's leading experts in the growing field of essential skills. Dr. Palmer co-founded the Essential Skills Group Inc. (ESG) where more than 20 ESG certified job profilers are currently engaged in HRSDC's Essential Skills Research Project, making it one of the largest companies of its kind in Canada. ESG's expertise also extends into the arena of tailored curriculum development. Her work has taken her to developing countries, to Canada's north and to school boards.

John Winter
President, BC Chamber of Commerce

John Winter is the President & CEO of the British Columbia Chamber of Commerce, BC's largest and most broadly based business organization, with 127 Chamber members representing over 27,000 businesses province-wide. Prior to joining the Chamber in 1997, John was a Senior Executive with Molson Breweries. John's Chamber-related activities include Treaty Negotiation Advisory Committee, Minister's Council on Employment Opportunities for Disabled Persons, Board Member of Degree Quality Assessment Board, Western Diversification's Business Advisory Council, Pacific Corridor Enterprise Council, and Lower Mainland Chamber's Transportation Advisory Panel.



Infoline

September 10, 2004

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also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Apr 1/04	% change on one year ago
BC	4,177.4	1.0
Canada	31,825.4	0.9
GDP and INCOME		
(BC - at market prices)	2003	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	142,418	5.1
GDP *($ 1997 millions)*	130,914	2.2
GDP *($ 1997 per Capita)*	31,572	1.4
Personal Disposable Income *($ 1997 per Capita)*	19,495	-0.4
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Jun	3,493	-1.3
Merchandise Exports - Jun	2,779	-2.2
Retail Sales - Jun	3,914	0.5
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		12-month avg
(all items - 1992=100)	Jul '04	% change
BC	123.4	1.8
Canada	125.0	1.7
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Aug '04	prev. month
Labour Force - BC	2,239	-0.3
Employed - BC	2,067	-0.7
Unemployed - BC	172	5.4
		Jul '04
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	7.7	7.3
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.2	7.2
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Sep 8/04	Sep 10/03
Prime Business Rate	3.75	4.50
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	4.60	4.55
- 5 year	6.40	6.50
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Sep 8/04	Sep 10/03
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $	1.2902	1.3659
US $ *(reciprocal of the closing rate)*	0.7747	0.7317
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Aug '04	one year ago
BC	690.10	0.4
Canada	682.29	2.4

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Released this week by BC STATS

- Tourism Sector Monitor, August 2004
- Earnings & Employment Trends, August 2004

Next week

- Labour Force Statistics, August 2004
- Exports, July 2004
- Quarterly Regional Statistics, 2nd Quarter 2004

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